

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR THE GRAVES OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS WHO ARE BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3657) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3657

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL BENEFITS.

Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “or a veterans’ cemetery owned by a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization” after “State”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “, a veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization” after “owned by a State”; and

(3) in subsection (f)—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) The Secretary”;

(C) by striking “a national cemetery or in a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title” and inserting “a covered cemetery”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The term ‘covered cemetery’ means any of the following:

“(A) A national cemetery.

“(B) A veterans’ cemetery of a State for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title.

“(C) A veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under such section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3657, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3657, as amended.

VA provides headstones and markers for the spouses or dependent children of veterans who are interred in a national or State veterans cemetery at no charge. But VA is not authorized to provide headstones or markers for spouses and dependent children who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries. That is not right.

There is no reason that veterans and their families who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries shouldn't receive the same benefits as those who decide to use national or State veterans cemeteries.

H.R. 3657 would allow VA to provide headstones and markers for eligible family members who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative POLIQUIN for introducing this bill. I know he has a special interest in this because his district includes a Tribal veterans cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3657, and ensure that veterans who choose to be interred in Tribal cemeteries are given the same recognition that we give to veterans who are interred in national or State veterans cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3657, as amended, which would authorize VA to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in Tribal cemeteries.

VA currently provides a headstone or a marker for eligible spouses or dependent children who are buried or interred in a national, military post, or State veterans cemetery. However, spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker if they are buried in a private or Tribal cemetery.

H.R. 3657, as amended, would resolve this inequity by ensuring that veterans' spouses and children who are buried at Tribal veterans cemeteries are provided government-furnished headstones or markers, which would be the same treatment family members buried at national and State veterans cemeteries receive.

H.R. 3657, as amended, enjoys broad, bipartisan support among the Members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I wish to thank the bill's sponsor, Representative BRUCE POLIQUIN, for his sponsorship and the work of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee for bringing it to the floor.

Native-American veterans have earned, and deserve, the same rights, privileges, and honors that other veterans receive. For this reason, I strongly support H.R. 3657, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), my good friend and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful that the House will be voting on this commonsense piece of legislation tonight. I am very proud to represent the Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians in Houlton, Maine, who created the first Tribal veterans cemetery not only in Maine, but also along the entire East Coast.

This past summer, Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised to learn that family members of veterans buried at Tribal cemeteries are not provided the same treatment as those buried at State and national veterans cemeteries. H.R. 3657 fixes this issue permanently.

Specifically, it would ensure that the family members of veterans who are buried at Tribal cemeteries—such as the Maliseet Indian Tribal cemetery in Houlton—are provided with government-furnished headstones, the same treatment as those buried at national and State veterans cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, we are all Americans. People who put on the uniform—whether a man or a woman, whoever they are, wherever they live, or whatever cemetery they are buried in—deserve the same respect, the same honor, and the same treatment.

I am thrilled to tell everybody listening here that this moved out of committee—this commonsense fix—this bill moved out of committee with unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for that to happen tonight when it appears on the floor, and I am grateful for our chairman to bring this up tonight.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Again, I strongly support H.R. 3657, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both sides of the aisle for these great bills we are passing this afternoon. It may seem like a small bill to the American public, but to the individual that is affected—in Maine, or wherever it may be—this is a huge deal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Democratic side for all of the work they have done on the committee in a bipartisan way. It is a great committee to work on.

This is a very important week for all of us, as we go home this Friday to begin celebrating Veterans Day. Two very important days on the committee are Memorial Day and Veterans Day, to honor those who passed and those who are still with us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both the Republicans and the Democrats. We put that at the door's edge, and this week we will be voting on some important pieces of legislation. We have seven more bills on the floor tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for the support they have given our veterans in this country.

I once again urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3657, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3562;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1066; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS OF RESIDENCES OF VETERANS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3562) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of resi-

dences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 607]

YEAS—400

Abraham	Courtney	Heck
Adams	Cramer	Hensarling
Aderholt	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Aguilar	Crist	Hice, Jody B.
Allen	Crowley	Higgins (LA)
Amash	Cuellar	Higgins (NY)
Amodei	Culberson	Hill
Arington	Cummings	Himes
Babin	Curbelo (FL)	Holding
Bacon	Davidson	Hollingsworth
Banks (IN)	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Barletta	Davis, Danny	Hudson
Barr	Davis, Rodney	Huffman
Barragán	DeFazio	Huizenga
Barton	DeGette	Hultgren
Bass	DeLauro	Hunter
Beatty	DelBene	Hurd
Bera	Demings	Issa
Bergman	Denham	Jackson Lee
Beyer	Dent	Jayapal
Biggs	DeSantis	Jeffries
Bilirakis	DeSaulnier	Jenkins (KS)
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Jenkins (WV)
Bishop (MI)	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Doggett	Johnson (LA)
Black	Donovan	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Doyle, Michael	Johnson, Sam
Blumenauer	F.	Jordan
Blunt Rochester	Duffy	Joyce (OH)
Bonamici	Duncan (SC)	Kaptur
Bost	Duncan (TN)	Katko
Brady (PA)	Dunn	Keating
Brady (TX)	Ellison	Kelly (IL)
Brat	Emmer	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Engel	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Eshoo	Kennedy
Brown (MD)	Español	Khanna
Brownley (CA)	Estes (KS)	Kihuen
Buchanan	Esty (CT)	Kildee
Buck	Evans	Kilmer
Bucshon	Farenthold	Kind
Budd	Faso	King (IA)
Burgess	Ferguson	King (NY)
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Kinzing
Butterfield	Fleischmann	Knight
Byrne	Flores	Krishnamoorthi
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kuster (NH)
Capuano	Poster	Kustoff (TN)
Carbajal	Fox	Labrador
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	LaHood
Carson (IN)	Franks (AZ)	LaMalfa
Carter (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Lamborn
Carter (TX)	Fudge	Lance
Cartwright	Gabbard	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Gaetz	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Gallagher	Latta
Chabot	Gallgo	Lawrence
Cheney	Garamendi	Lawson (FL)
Chu, Judy	Gianforte	Lee
Cicilline	Gibbs	Levin
Clarke (NY)	Gomez	Lewis (GA)
Clay	Gonzalez (TX)	Lewis (MN)
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Lieu, Ted
Clyburn	Gosar	Lipinski
Coffman	Gottheimer	LoBiondo
Cohen	Graves (GA)	Loeb
Cole	Graves (LA)	Lofgren
Collins (GA)	Graves (MO)	Long
Collins (NY)	Green, Al	Loudermilk
Comer	Green, Gene	Love
Comstock	Griffith	Lowenthal
Conaway	Grijalva	Lowey
Connolly	Grothman	Lucas
Conyers	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Cook	Hanabusa	Lujan Grisham,
Cooper	Handel	M.
Correa	Harper	Luján, Ben Ray
Costa	Harris	Lynch
Costello (PA)	Hartzler	MacArthur

Marchant	Price (NC)	Smith (NE)
Marino	Quigley	Smith (NJ)
Marshall	Raskin	Smith (TX)
Massie	Ratcliffe	Smith (WA)
Mast	Reed	Smucker
Matsui	Reichert	Soto
McCarthy	Renacci	Speier
McCaul	Rice (NY)	Stefanik
McClintock	Rice (SC)	Stewart
McCollum	Richmond	Stivers
McEachin	Roby	Suozi
McGovern	Roe (TN)	Swalwell (CA)
McHenry	Rogers (AL)	Takano
McKinley	Rogers (KY)	Taylor
McMorris	Rokita	Tenney
Rodgers	Rooney, Francis	Thompson (CA)
McSally	Rooney, Thomas	Thompson (PA)
Meadows	J.	Tiberi
Meehan	Ros-Lehtinen	Tipton
Meng	Rosen	Titus
Mitchell	Roskam	Tonko
Moolenaar	Ross	Torres
Mooney (WV)	Rothfus	Trott
Moore	Rouzer	Tsongas
Moulton	Royce (CA)	Turner
Mullin	Ruiz	Vargas
Murphy (FL)	Ruppersberger	Veasey
Nadler	Rush	Vela
Napolitano	Russell	Velázquez
Neal	Rutherford	Visclosky
Newhouse	Ryan (OH)	Wagner
Noem	Sánchez	Walberg
Nolan	Sanford	Walden
Norcross	Sarbanes	Walker
Norman	Scalise	Walorski
Nunes	Schakowsky	Walters, Mimi
O'Halleran	Schiff	Walz
O'Rourke	Schneider	Wasserman
Olson	Schrader	Schultz
Palazzo	Schweikert	Waters, Maxine
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Panetta	Scott, David	Webster (FL)
Pascarella	Sensenbrenner	Welch
Paulsen	Serrano	Wenstrup
Payne	Sessions	Westerman
Pearce	Sewell (AL)	Williams
Pelosi	Shea-Porter	Wilson (SC)
Perry	Sherman	Wittman
Peters	Shimkus	Womack
Peterson	Shuster	Woodall
Pingree	Simpson	Yarmuth
Pittenger	Sinema	Yoder
Poe (TX)	Sires	Yoho
Poliquin	Slaughter	Young (IA)
Posey	Smith (MO)	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—32

Blackburn	Gutiérrez	Pocan
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Polis
F.	Johnson, E. B.	Rohrabacher
Bridenstine	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Clark (MA)	Langevin	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Maloney,	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Carolyn B.	Upton
Diaz-Balart	Maloney, Sean	Valadao
Garrett	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Gohmert	Meeks	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Messer	
Granger	Perlmutter	

□ 1853

Mses. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and MOORE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK IN SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.